

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1 – 62 stand rejected. Claims 10 – 12 and 51 – 62 have been cancelled. Claims 13 – 50 have been withdrawn. Claims 1 – 9 are pending following entry of the present remarks.

Restriction/Election

Pursuant to the election/restriction requirement set by the Examiner, Applicants have herein elected with traverse Claims 1 – 9 which are drawn to a plasma processing apparatus. Applicants submit that Claims 1 - 9 are directed to a single patentably distinct invention and has accordingly elected the corresponding Group I of claims, as required by the Examiner.

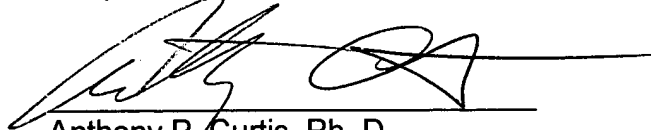
Further, Applicants submit that the election has been made with traverse to underscore that Invention I, which relates to a plasma processing apparatus that comprises plasma processing chamber, and Invention III, which relates to a plasma processing apparatus that comprises a plurality of plasma processing chamber units having a plasma processing chamber containing similar elements as in the plasma processing apparatus of Invention I, are sufficiently similar.

In addition, Applicants submit that Invention I and Invention III have similar modes of operations, in that Invention III also performs plasma containment in the corresponding plasma processing chambers similarly to Invention I. Invention I and Invention III also have similar functions in that Invention III also performs plasma wafer processing in the corresponding plasma processing chambers similarly to Invention I. Invention I and Invention III also have similar effects as Invention III also performs wafer plasma processing in the corresponding plasma processing chambers similarly to Invention I.

Conclusion

Therefore, in view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. If for any reason, however, the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

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